

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.       A bulkhead assembly for use with an  
inflatable modular structure, the inflatable modular  
structure having at least two longerons, an inflatable  
bladder having an opening on opposing ends, and a  
5 flexible restraint layer having an opening on opposing  
ends and a plurality of attachment loops on each end,  
the bulkhead assembly comprising:  
a plate having an inner surface;  
a plurality of longitudinal restraint  
10 fittings;  
a first bladder flange;  
a second bladder flange;  
a plurality of flange seals;  
at least two longeron sleeves;  
15 each longeron sleeve being fixedly secured  
to the inner surface of the plate and  
adapted to securedly receive a longeron;  
the first and second bladder flanges being  
adapted to securedly receive one of the  
20 opposing ends of the inflatable bladder  
therebetween;  
the second bladder flange being secured to  
the inner surface of the plate with the

25 plurality of flange seals secured  
between the plate and second bladder  
flange; and

the plurality of longitudinal restraint  
fittings being secured to the plate and  
each of the longitudinal restraint  
30 fittings adapted to receive an  
attachment loop from one of the opposing  
ends of the flexible restraint layer  
such that the restraint layer  
substantially encompasses the inflatable  
35 bladder.

1 2. The bulkhead assembly of claim 1 wherein  
each longitudinal restraint fitting is substantially  
"U" shaped defining opposing posts and each  
longitudinal restraint fitting further comprises a  
5 roller being secured between the opposing posts and  
adapted to receive an attachment loop around the  
roller.

1 3. The bulkhead assembly of claim 1 wherein the  
plate has an access opening.

1 4. The bulkhead assembly of claim 1 wherein the  
plate further comprises an outer surface, the outer  
surface being adapted to receive an airlock assembly.

1           5.    The bulkhead assembly of claim 1 wherein the  
plate further comprises an outer surface, the outer  
surface being adapted to receive a distal end  
assembly.

1           6.    The bulkhead assembly of claim 1 wherein the  
plate further comprises an outer surface, said outer  
surface and inner surface having a plurality of  
bulkhead load pads.

1           7.    The bulkhead assembly of claim 1 wherein the  
longitudinal restraint fittings are adjacent to the  
second bladder flange.

1           8.    A bulkhead assembly for use with an  
inflatable modular structure, the inflatable modular  
structure having at least two longerons, an inflatable  
bladder having an opening on opposing ends, and a  
5 flexible restraint layer having an opening on opposing  
ends and a plurality of attachment loops on each end,  
the bulkhead assembly comprising:

        a plate;

        means for securing the longerons to the

10               plate;

        means for securing one of the opposing ends

                of the inflatable bladder to the plate;

                and

means for securing the attachment loops on  
15 one of the opposing ends of the  
flexible restraint layer to the plate.

1 9. A method for attaching a bulkhead assembly to  
an inflatable modular structure, the inflatable  
modular structure having at least two longerons, an  
inflatable bladder having an opening on opposing ends,  
5 and a flexible restraint layer having an opening on  
opposing ends and a plurality of attachment loops on  
each end, the method of attaching the bulkhead  
assembly comprising the steps of:

securing the longerons to the bulkhead  
10 assembly;  
securing one opposing end of the inflatable  
bladder to the bulkhead assembly; and  
securing the attachment loops on one of the  
opposing ends of the flexible restraint  
15 layer to the bulkhead assembly.

1 10. The method for attaching a bulkhead assembly  
to an inflatable modular structure in claim 9 using  
the bulkhead assembly of claim 3.

1 11. A method for attaching a bulkhead assembly  
to an inflatable modular structure, the inflatable  
modular structure having at least two longerons, an

inflatable bladder having an opening on opposing ends,  
5 and a flexible restraint layer having an opening on  
opposing ends and a plurality of attachment loops on  
each end, the method of attaching the bulkhead  
assembly comprising the steps of:

securing the longerons to the bulkhead  
10 assembly of claim 1;

securing one opposing end of the inflatable  
bladder to the bulkhead assembly of  
claim 1; and

securing the attachment loops to the  
15 bulkhead assembly of claim 1.

1 12. A method for attaching a bulkhead assembly  
to an inflatable modular structure, the inflatable  
modular structure having at least two longerons, an  
inflatable bladder having an opening on opposing ends,  
5 and a flexible restraint layer having an opening on  
opposing ends and a plurality of attachment loops on  
each end, the method of attaching the bulkhead  
assembly comprising the steps of:

securing the longerons to the bulkhead  
10 assembly of claim 8;

securing one opposing end of the inflatable  
bladder to the bulkhead assembly of  
claim 8; and

securing the attachment loops to the  
15 bulkhead assembly of claim 8.

1 13. A method for attaching a bulkhead assembly  
to opposing ends of an inflatable modular structure,  
the inflatable modular structure having a truss  
comprised of at least two longerons and each longeron  
5 having a fore and an aft end, an inflatable bladder  
having a first and second opening on opposing ends,  
and a flexible restraint layer having a first and  
second opening on opposing ends and a plurality of  
attachment loops on each end, the method of attaching  
10 the bulkhead assemblies comprising the steps of:

securing the fore ends of the longerons to a  
first bulkhead assembly as in claim 1;

securing the aft ends of the longerons to a  
second bulkhead assembly as in claim 3;

15 securing the first opposing end of the  
inflatable bladder to a first bulkhead  
assembly as in claim 1;

securing the second opposing end of the  
inflatable bladder to a second bulkhead  
20 assembly as in claim 3;  
securing the attachment loops on the first  
opposing end of the restraint layer to a  
first bulkhead as in claim 1; and  
securing the attachment loops on the second  
25 opposing end of the restraint layer to a  
second bulkhead as in claim 3 such that  
the restraint layer substantially  
encompasses the inflatable bladder.

1 14. A method for attaching a bulkhead assembly  
to opposing ends of an inflatable modular structure,  
the inflatable modular structure having a truss  
comprised of at least two longerons and each longeron  
5 having a fore and an aft end, an inflatable bladder  
having a first and second opening on opposing ends,  
and a flexible restraint layer having a first and  
second opening on opposing ends and a plurality of  
attachment loops on each end, the method of attaching  
10 the bulkhead assemblies comprising the steps of:

securing the fore ends of the longerons to a  
first bulkhead assembly as in claim 8;

securing the aft ends of the longerons to a  
second bulkhead assembly as in claim 8;  
15     securing the first opposing end of the  
inflatable bladder to a first bulkhead  
assembly as in claim 8;  
securing the second opposing end of the  
inflatable bladder to a second bulkhead  
20     assembly as in claim 8;  
securing the attachment loops on the first  
opposing end of the restraint layer to a  
first bulkhead as in claim 8; and  
securing the attachment loops on the second  
25     opposing end of the restraint layer to a  
second bulkhead as in claim 8.

15.     An inflatable modular structure utilizing  
two bulkhead assemblies, the inflatable modular  
structure having at least two longerons each having  
fore and aft ends, an inflatable bladder having an  
5     opening on opposing ends, and a flexible restraint  
layer having an opening on opposing ends and a  
plurality of attachment loops on each end, the  
inflatable modular structure utilizing two bulkhead  
assemblies comprising:



10 a first and second bulkhead assembly as in  
claim 3;

the fore ends of the plurality of longerons  
securedly attached to a plurality of  
longeron sleeves on the first bulkhead  
15 assembly;

the aft ends of the plurality of longerons  
securedly attached to a plurality of  
longeron sleeves on the second bulkhead  
assembly;

20 one end of the inflatable bladder being  
attached to the first bulkhead assembly;  
the opposing end of the inflatable bladder  
being attached to the second bulkhead  
assembly;

25 one end of the restraint layer being attached  
to the first bulkhead assembly;  
the opposing end of the restraint layer being  
attached to the second bulkhead  
assembly.

1 16. An inflatable modular structure utilizing  
two bulkhead assemblies, the inflatable modular  
structure having at least two longerons each having  
fore and aft ends, an inflatable bladder having an

5 opening on opposing ends, and a flexible restraint layer having an opening on opposing ends and a plurality of attachment loops on each end, the inflatable modular structure utilizing two bulkhead assemblies comprising:

10 a first and second bulkhead assembly as in claim 8;

the fore ends of the plurality of longerons securedly attached to a plurality of longeron sleeves on the first bulkhead assembly;

15 the aft ends of the plurality of longerons securedly attached to a plurality of longeron sleeves on the second bulkhead assembly;

20 one end of the inflatable bladder being attached to the first bulkhead assembly; the opposing end of the inflatable bladder being attached to the second bulkhead assembly;

25 one end of the restraint layer being attached to the first bulkhead assembly;

the opposing end of the restraint layer being  
attached to the second bulkhead  
assembly.

1        17. An inflatable modular structure utilizing  
two bulkhead assemblies, the inflatable modular  
structure having at least two longerons each having  
fore and aft ends, an inflatable bladder having an  
5 opening on opposing ends, and a flexible restraint  
layer having an opening on opposing ends and a  
plurality of attachment loops on each end, the  
inflatable modular structure utilizing two bulkhead  
assemblies comprising:

10        a first bulkhead assembly as in claim 3;  
a second bulkhead assembly as in claim 6 and  
further comprising an access opening;  
means for securing the fore ends of the  
plurality of longerons to the first  
15 bulkhead assembly;  
means for securing the aft ends of the  
plurality of longerons to the second  
bulkhead assembly;  
means for securing one end of the inflatable  
20 bladder to the first bulkhead assembly;

means for securing the opposing end of the  
inflatable bladder to the second  
bulkhead assembly;

means for securing one end of the restraint  
25 layer to the first bulkhead assembly;

means for securing the opposing end of the  
restraint layer to the second bulkhead  
assembly such that the flexible  
restraint layer substantially  
30 encompasses the inflatable bladder.

1 18. An inflatable modular structure utilizing  
two bulkhead assemblies, the inflatable modular  
structure having at least two longerons each having  
fore and aft ends, an inflatable bladder having an  
5 opening on opposing ends, and a flexible restraint  
layer having an opening on opposing ends and a  
plurality of attachment loops on each end, the  
inflatable modular structure utilizing two bulkhead  
assemblies comprising:

10 a first and second bulkhead assembly each as  
in claim 8;

means for securing the fore ends of the  
plurality of longerons to the first  
bulkhead assembly;

15 means for securing the aft ends of the  
plurality of longerons to the second  
bulkhead assembly;  
means for securing one end of the inflatable  
bladder to the first bulkhead assembly;  
20 means for securing the opposing end of the  
inflatable bladder to the second  
bulkhead assembly;  
means for securing one end of the restraint  
layer to the first bulkhead assembly;  
25 means for securing the opposing end of the  
restraint layer to the second bulkhead  
assembly such that the restraint layer  
substantially encompasses the inflatable  
bladder.

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